

Comparison Cohorts: A Match Made in Heaven



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How to Align Cohort Development With the Reporting Requirements

- ❑ Why Focus on the Numbers?
- ❑ Participant and Comparison Cohorts: The Basics
- ❑ Cohort Practice Exercises

Available Performance Training for TAACCCT grantees

- ❑ **WEBINAR: General Reporting Requirements Overview & Quarterly Narrative Progress Report (pre-recorded)**
 - **LINK:**
<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/5001132660296309185/info>
- ❑ **WEBINAR: Participant and Comparison Cohorts (pre-recorded)**
 - **LINK:**
<https://www.workforce3one.org/view/5001132660492168532/info>
- ❑ **WEBINAR: Annual Performance Report**
 - Forthcoming in March 2012

Related Sessions of Interest

- Participant tracking and follow-up:
 - *“Collaborating with the Workforce System to Achieve Success”* ♦ February 21, 3:00-4:00 pm
- Performing quality evaluation and using the results effectively:
 - *“Where’s Your Proof? Taking Evaluation and Evidence-Base to the Next Level”* ♦ February 22, 9:30-10:30 am

Why Focus on the Numbers?



Why focus on the numbers?

- ❑ A lot of federal support for community college training.
- ❑ Federal spending subjected to great scrutiny.
- ❑ One way ETA measures the success of your grant.
- ❑ Future grant decisions may be affected by data.
- ❑ Concrete benchmarks can motivate and assist with improving and adjusting implementation.
- ❑ Your numbers help tell your story to stakeholders.
- ❑ Behind every number is a person.

OUR FOCUS: Assistance and Support

- ❑ Standardized data help us determine how we can help your grant be successful through:
 - identifying common programmatic issues.
 - identifying best practices.
 - telling the stories of your successes to external interested parties.

What Your Numbers Are Telling Us So Far

Estimated TAACCCT Round 1 Participant Targets¹

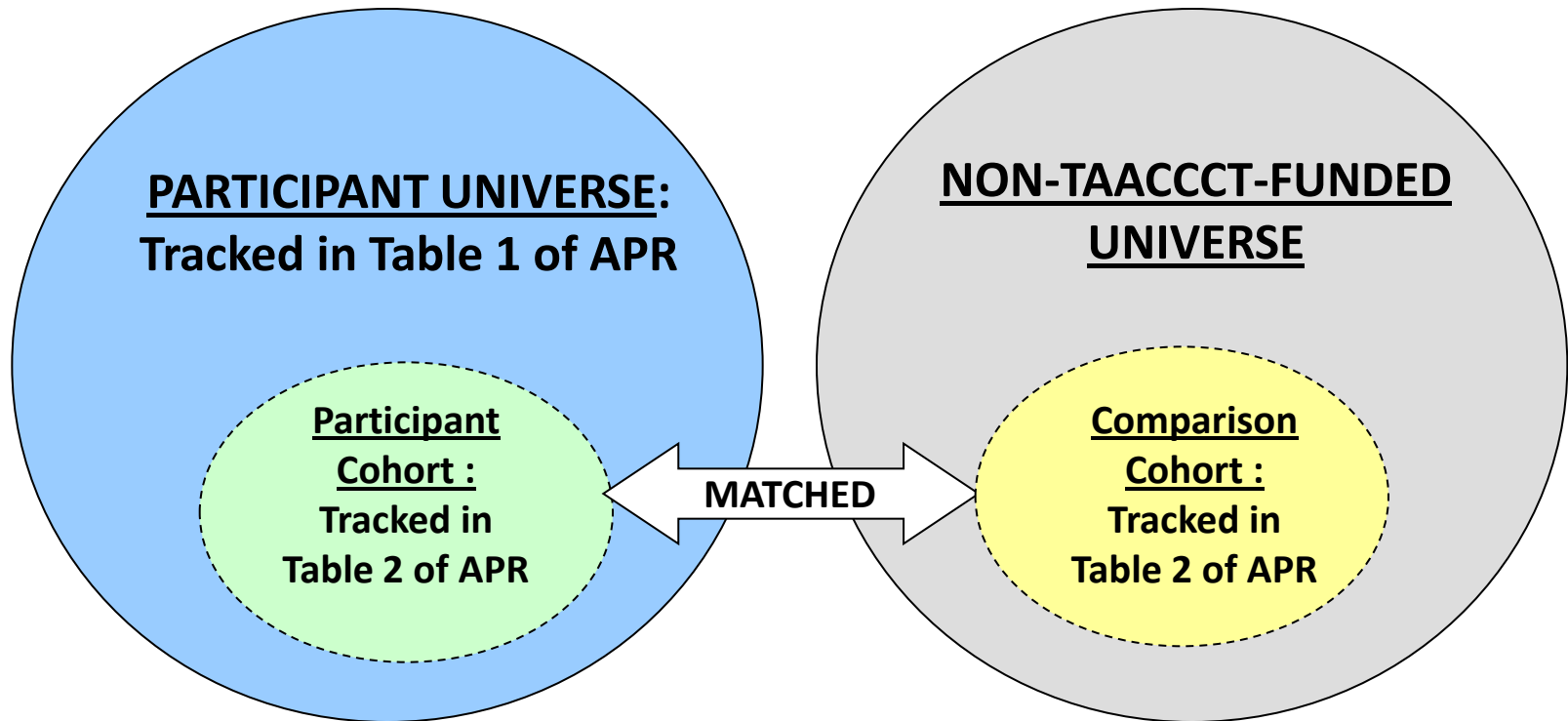
49 grantees

	Total	Average
Number of students enrolled in any grant-funded program	81,425	1,662
Number of students earning a certificate	49,837	1,017
Number of students earning a degree	12,903	263
Number of students placed into employment	47,229	964

¹ Targets are estimated because not all technical proposals and modifications have been finalized and approved as of 2/16/2012

Participant and Comparison Cohorts: The Basics

What Is the Difference Between Participant and Comparison Cohorts?



Participant Cohorts: The Basics

- ❑ Each program of study that is funded by the grant should have its own participant cohort .
 - A program of study is broadly defined as an educational program in which a degree or certificate is granted.
 - Grouping or combining of some programs **with similar educational material or occupational outlook** may be allowed.
- ❑ Participants in the same participant cohort for a program of study must:
 - Start training on the same date
 - Be enrolled in a program with the same duration of time to complete

Comparison Cohorts: The Basics

- ❑ Every participant cohort should have a corresponding comparison cohort.
- ❑ Students in the comparison cohort should not be enrolled in TAACCCT-funded elements of the program of study.
- ❑ The comparison cohort must match the participant cohort on the following characteristics:
 - program of study
 - start date
 - length of the training program
 - percent male
 - average age

Sources for Comparison Cohorts

- 1) A current group of students that starts the same or a similar program simultaneous to its corresponding participant cohort;
- 2) A current group of students that starts the same or a similar program earlier than its corresponding participant cohort; or
- 3) A recent or former group of students in the same or a similar program of study (within the last five years) that is no longer enrolled at your college.

***Depending on the individual circumstances of your grant, not all of these options may be feasible for your project.**



Using a Comparison Cohort that Does Not Start Simultaneous to Your Participant Cohort

If you are planning to use option (2) or (3) as your source, you must take into account the following:

- **Duration of time**: The duration of time a comparison cohort is or was tracked should be equivalent to the length of time between the start date of the corresponding participant cohort and the period of performance end date.
- **Data elements required**: You must have enough information available on the comparison cohort students to report on all data elements in the Annual Performance Report Table 2.
- **Reporting intervals**: The information available for the comparison cohort students must be captured in a way that allows you to report snapshots for the comparison cohort after each reporting year equivalent.

Special Considerations: Consortium Grants

- ❑ Follow same basic requirements as single-institution grants
 - ❑ Do not need a different cohort for each college
- ❑ To select cohorts, utilize a multi-stage strategy.
 - Stage 1: Determine which colleges can provide students for cohorts in each program of study.
 - Stage 2: Determine which students from the colleges will go into the cohorts.

Cohort Practice Exercises

Scenario 1

Sunshine Community College is using grant funds for four programs total: two existing programs (a Corrections certificate program and a non-credit Writing skills training program) and two new certificate programs (Background Investigation and Graphic Design). The college will start training students in the updated Corrections program in August 2012. Training will start in the new Background Investigation and Graphic Design programs in January 2013. The Corrections and Graphic Design programs will each take one year to complete. The Background Investigation program will have two duration options: a twelve-week option and a sixteen-week option. The Writing skills program is a one semester program.

Scenario 2

Harvest Moon Community and Technical College was awarded a grant as part of a consortium with five other colleges- A, B, C, D and E. Between the six colleges, they will be updating three existing programs (two sixteen-week certificates in Java Programming and HTML Web Development, and a one-year certificate in IT Support). These programs are offered by all of the colleges and have rolling admission starting in April 2012. They will also be adding four new programs (one-year certificates in Nurse Assistant and Medical Assisting: Coding and Reimbursement offered by Harvest Moon college only starting in January 2013; and Associate's Degrees in Vocational Nursing and Pre-Allied Health, starting in August 2012). The Vocational Nursing degree is offered by Harvest Moon, College A, College B and College C. The Pre-Allied Health degree is offered by College B, College C, College D and College E.



Your Turn!

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